

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 PM-09 INR-10 L-03

NEA-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 GAC-01 USIA-12

TRSE-00 MBFR-03 SAJ-01 H-02 NSC-10 SS-15 IO-12 AF-10

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TAGS: NATO, PFOR, MOPS, SP, NO

SUBJ: PROPOSED NAVAL ON- CALL FORCE MEDITERRANEAN VISIT TO
SPANISH PORT

REF: USNATO 1835

1. THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY STAFF HAS PREPARED A DRAFT
MEMORANDUM TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL ON THE SUBJECT. MEMO NOTES
ACCEPTABILITY OF PORT VISIT TO PALMA, MALLORCA, RATHER THAN TO
BARCELONA.

2. COVER MEMO TO MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE CALLS FOR
MC APPROVAL BY SILENCE PROCEDURE BY 2:00 PM APRIL 17.

3. MISSION ANTICIPATES NO OBJECTIONS BY THE MC ON MILITARY
GROUNDS. ACCORDINGLY, AT DPC MEETING MORNING OF APRIL 18,
MISSION PROPOSES TO SUPPORT MEMO TO SYG UNLESS OTHERWISE
NOTIFIED BY OPENING OF BUSINESS APRIL 18.

4. TEXT OF DRAFT MEMO TO SYG FOLLOWS. BEGIN TEXT.

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY GENERAL
NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION

SUBJECT: NAVOCFORMED ACTIVITIES, 14 MAY - 12 JUNE 1973

REFERENCES: A. MCM-25-73, 12 APRIL 1973

B. DPC/ A(73)5, 11 APRIL 1973

1. THE NATO MILITARY AUTHORITIES HAVE REVIEWED THE POINTS RAISED IN THE DISCUSSIONS DURING THE DPC MEETING OF 13 APRIL 1973(1), AND MAKE THE FOLLOWING REPLY.

2. IT WOULD BE FEASIBLE AND ACCEPTABLE TO MAKE A PORT VISIT TO PALMA, MALLORCA RATHER THAN TO BARCELONA.

3. THE PRESS RELEASE NOW UNDER REVIEW BY THE MILITARY COMMITTEE COVERS THE WHOLE ACTIVATION OF NAVOCFORMED FROM 14 MAY TO 12 JUNE. PORT VISITS ARE MENTIONED BY THERE IS NO PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON THE VISIT TO A SPANISH OR ANY OTHER PORT. HOWEVER, SPECIFIC REFERENCES TO THE COUNTRIES TO BE VISITED WILL BE DELETED TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF SUGGESTIONS MADE DURING DPC DISCUSSION. WHEN THE MILITARY COMMITTEE HAS AGREED UPON THE WORDING OF THE PRESS RELEASE, IT WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR COMMENT BY THE DPC IN THE USUAL WAY.

4. IN ADDRESSING THE QUESTION OF THE PROPOSED VISIT BEING WITHIN THE OPERATIONAL FRAMEWORK OF THE EXERCISE, SACEUR HAS INDICATED THE FOLLOWING:

A. THE MAJOR SOVIET PRESENCE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN CONTINUES. IS HAS BEEN NOTED THAT OF LATE THERE HAS BEEN INCREASED ACTIVITY IN THE WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN.

B. THE 6 TH ACTIVATION IS FOR AN EXTENDED PERIOD, ONE MONTH, WHICH PROVIDES AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY FOR NAVOCFORMED TO EXTEND ITS ACTIVITIES TO THIS PART OF THE MEDITERRANEAN. ACCORDINLY, A SPECIFIC PHASE, PHASE III OF THE EXERCISE, WAS DEVELOPED TO PROVIDE THE FORCE WITH THE OPPORTUNITY OF OPERATING IN THIS PART OF THE MEDITERRANEAN.

C. TO BE EFFECTIVE AS AN ON- CALL FORCE, IT IS NECESSARY THAT NAVOCFORMED MAKES THE MAXIMUM USE OF EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO OPERATE IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN.

D. THE PRACTISE OF A PORT CALL AT THE END OF THE PHASE OF AN
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EXERCISE IS NORMAL NAVAL PROCEDURE. IN THIS PARTICULAR CASE PRIOR TO THE PROPOSED VISIT TO A SPANISH PORT, NAVOCFORMED IS EXERCISING IN AN AREA WEST OF CORSICA AND AFTER THE VISIT WILL PROCEED TO AN AREA SOUTH OF SARDINIA FOR THE NEXT PHASE OF THE EXERCISE.

E. THE PRESENCE OF NAVOCFORMED IN THE WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN AT THIS TIME WILL PERMIT IT TO UNDERTAKE A JOINT EXERCISE WITH GERMAN NAVAL UNITS. THE GERMAN NAVAL UNITS ARE IN THE WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN AT THIS TIME ENROUTE CAPE GATA, SPAIN, FOR A VISIT

TO MARSEILLES. THE PROPOSED CHANGE IN SPANISH PORTS WOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH THIS PLANNED OPERATIONAL COMMITMENT.

F. WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF MCM-85-70, (MEASURES TO COUNTER SOVIET EXPANSION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA), THIS EXERCISE MARKS AN IMPORTANT INITIATIVE TO DEMONSTRATE THE MILITARY CAPABILITY TO ESTABLISH A PRESENCE IN THE WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN. IT CAN BE ADDED, THEREFORE, INABILITY TO PAY VISITS TO PORTS IN THE WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN WOULD MAKE MANIFEST NATIO, PROBABLE DIFFICULTIES IN UNDERTAKING SUSTAINED OPERATIONS IN THE AREA IF SUCH EVER BECOME NECESSARY. THIS IS PARTICULARLY SO IN VIEW OF THE RECOGNIZED LACK OF MOBILE LOGISTIC SUPPORT IN THE SOUTHERN REGION NAVIES. ON THE OTHER HAND, A VISIT TO A SPANISH PORT WOULD NOT ONLY HELP TO COUNTER SOVIET EXPANSION IN THE TERMS OF MCM-85-70, BUT WOULD DEMONSTRATE THAT NATO HAS SOME FLEXIBILITY FOR PEACETIME OPERATIONS IN THE WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN.

5. THE MILITARY COMMITTEE RE- AFFIRMS THAT THERE IS AT THIS TIME NO OBJECTION, FROM A MILITARY POINT OF VIEW, TO THE PROPOSED VISIT. AS INDICATED IN THE PROPOSED PRESS RELEASE, SUCH EXERCISES PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR PRACTISING AND PERFECTING STANDARD OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES AMONG THE ALLIED NAVIES OF THE SOUTHERN REGION. AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THESE EXERCISES, PORT VISITS ARE OF IMPORTANCE AND ARE ENTIRELY CONSISTENT WITH THE APPROVED POLICY ON THE MEASURES TO COUNTER SOVIET EXPANSION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN.

END TEXT. RUMSFELD

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